



AWARDEE REPORT FORM

NAME	Alessandro Felder
UNIVERSITY	Royal Veterinary College
NAME OF AWARD	Symington bequest
PURPOSE OF AWARD	<i>conference attended (full name) with city and dates</i>
	to participate in the Mini-Symposium Computational Mechanobiology of Bone and Cartilage (part of the World Congress in Computational Mechanics) 2018, 22nd to 27th July 2018, New York City, New York, USA.
REPORT: What were your anticipated benefits?	
	<p>Apart from the typical benefits of presenting a scientific conference, such as meeting fellow scientists with similar interests and honing presentation skills, I expected to learn skills that aren't readily accessible to me at my home institution: I work at the intersection of bone biology, biomechanics, software development for imaging and simulation, and while I have the privilege to ask questions about the former two fields at my home institution, I lack the opportunity to discuss cutting-edge matters of the latter field. In the computer simulation aspect, this was the ideal conference for my interests, so I thought I could refresh and update my knowledge in the field to help me transition into my postdoc.</p>
COMMENTS: Describe your experience at the conference / lab visit / course / seminar.	
	<p>On the first day of the meeting, I arrived not knowing anyone, so I was grateful to the organizers for making an effort to get everyone involved early on.</p> <p>I had my presentation soon after the beginning of the mini-symposium, and was glad to provoke intelligent questions from the audience. This also allowed me to relax and focus on learning from the other presenters. I took care to write down any questions I had, and I mustered the courage to discuss these with several senior academics during the dinner, which was very exciting.</p> <p>I was also lucky enough that my presentation about measuring the morphology of trabecular bone triggered the interest of a PhD student at another institution, and it was rewarding to help them apply my work to their scans of peridontal ligaments. Furthermore, our discussions as well as another discussion with a Post-doc gave me new ideas about the relevance and impact of my work.</p>
REPORT: In relation to skills, what were the most important things you gained? <i>(does not apply to equipment grant)</i>	
	<p>This being a unique opportunity for me, I was motivated to prepare for it as best possible beyond just my presentation, so I was more organized and focussed on learning new things relevant to my project than at any conference before and I noticed how much easier that makes it, so I want to keep on doing that in the future. I particularly tried to focus on the questions I wanted to ask, which was crucial in learning as much as</p>

I did: I had the privilege to meet several senior experts in computational mechanics of bone, who pointed me towards critical publications in the field, that will hopefully help me reach the cutting edge in this aspect of my work, which tries to correlate the morphology and mechanics of trabecular bone.

In summary, I developed my presentation, organization and networking skills and learnt from experts about computational mechanics of bone.

REPORT: How do you think you will put this learning experience into practice in the future?

In the short term, I think the pointers to important papers will help my computer simulations of bone mechanics reach the current standard. Several discussions have made me think about my work differently, so I will adapt my research direction accordingly.

In the longer term, I hope the connections I have made could lead to future collaborations beyond my current post-doctoral project.

SIGNATURE

Alessandro Felder

DATE

28. August 2018

If submitted electronically, a type-written name is acceptable in place of a hand-written signature

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